

“Little Gems”



Clerk of the Circuit Court - Gary M. Clemens

Historic Records

Volume 3 Issue 4 October 2018

"Little Gems" is a quarterly newsletter published by the Clerk of the Circuit Historic Records Division. "Little Gems" refers to a binder of interesting references compiled by retired Deputy Clerk, Louisa Hutchison. Since the formation of the county, the Clerks have squirreled away notes which listed things to remember, interesting facts, and things that were just down right oddities. Over time these notes went from scraps of paper tucked in desks or books, to an organized binder, now called the "Book of Little Gems." The Historic Records newsletter is meant to provide you information about upcoming programs and exhibits, updated indexes, processed records, tips for research, as well as some articles on a few of the "Little Gems" we have found.

Land Records & Deed Research

Loudoun is one of only a few counties in the Commonwealth that has records dating from its formation in 1757 when it split from Fairfax County. The Historic Records and Deed Research division includes court records from 1757-1980's and land records from 1757-present. Research can be conducted by using both in-house and online databases as well as paper indexes. Our staff can provide guidance and suggestions to start your research but **cannot provide research services or legal advice**. To prepare for your visit please review our online links to indexes and county databases which provide a starting point in your records research.

If you Visit the Archives

There is a court order that establishes court security protocols that serve the best interests of all visitors to the various courts and court-related offices in the Courts Complex. Therefore, electronic mobile devices such as cellphones with cameras, laptop computers, and electronic tablets are currently not permitted in the Courts Complex. To assist the patrons of the Historic Records/Archives research division, the Clerk's Office provides computer workstations with internet access so our patrons can review the websites of other historic records museums and historic records research organizations to assist with research needs in the Clerk's Office.

Cover

St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery
located on Church Street.



Gravestone of Westwood Thompson Mason

“Little Gems”

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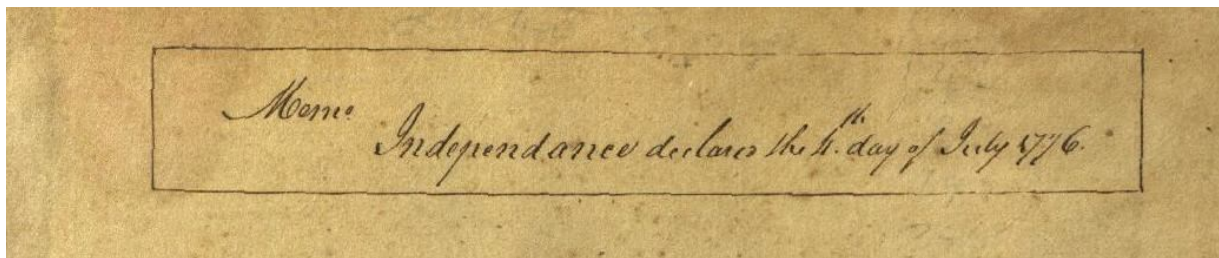
John Fishback

THE MANAGER’S ORDER BOOK: Welcome to the October Issue of “Little Gems”

By: Eric Larson



For the last year, cemeteries have received a lot of attention in Loudoun County. In Historic Records, we are often asked questions about cemeteries. Some of these questions are: “where is a person buried, can I bury family members on my property, can I remove a cemetery from my property, and was there a burial ground on my property?” Most of these are legal questions that can only be answered by other departments in the Local and State government, or need a considerable amount of professional research. In this edition of “Little Gems” and at our October 5, 2018 First Friday Program, you will have the opportunity to view some of the history and records about Loudoun’s burial customs and cemeteries.



Title Page from Court Order Book G, 1776

DAR Grant

The Clerk of the Circuit Court received a \$7,800 grant from the Ketocin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The Ketocin Chapter partnered with the State and National DAR Chapters to help raise the \$7,800 conservation grant. This generous donation will conserve Order Book G (1776-1780), which was the first Court Order Book kept by the clerk after the thirteen colonies declared independence on July 4, 1776. On the title page, County Clerk John Binn’s writes “Independence declared 4th day of July 1776.” The first two pages of Order Book G ordered that the Declaration of Independence be read on the front steps of the court house, and for all county officials to come forward to take a new oath of office to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

C.W. Warthon will perform the conservation by removing the Barrow’s Laminate, and de-acidify the pages. Once this step is completed, the pages will be mended and placed in Mylar sleeves and bound in a post binder. This is the second preservation grant Historic Records has received from the Ketocin DAR. The first grant was the conservation of the 1781-1782 Rough Minute Book in 2017. We thank the Ketocin DAR for their continued efforts in helping us to conserve Revolutionary War period books and papers.

2019 Library of Virginia Grant

Historic Records also received a \$10,563 Circuit Court Records Preservation Grant from the Library of Virginia. This competitive grant is open to all 126 Clerk of Circuit Court offices in Virginia. This grant will conserve Deed Book F, Minute Book 1840-1841, Rough Minute Book 1773-1780, and Rough Minute Book 1791-1792. The conservation will be done by C.W. Warthon.

"Little Gems:" A Look at Chancery Case 1850-012

By Sarah Markel

I find that people think coming to the court house can be an intimidating task. Many people coming to the court house are not coming of their own accord, and those that are can be nervous of the unknown, the building, and the process. I always tell people not to worry, and that this building is like any other except it houses a wonderful collection of papers containing the history of Loudoun County Courts from 1757-today.

One of my co-workers was working on a Chancery project and came across Chancery Case 1850-012. When I read the case, I was taken by some of the responses in the deposition and it made me think that perhaps the gentleman was nervous or maybe irritated and decided to give the attorney a bit of "Sass."

Chancery Case 1850-012 is George Fawley et al v Margaret Elizabeth George. This file indicates that Jacob Fawley had leased out land to John Compher in 1843. Sometime after entering into this agreement Jacob Fawley passed away. In settling his estate Jacob Stream was called for a deposition regarding the lease. Jacob Stream did not appear to be happy about being called in based on his answers:

Q. Are you an heir at law of Jacob Fawley?

A. Yes.

Q. How come you [are] an heir?

A. I married his daughter.

Q. Is your Wife living?

A. She was when I left home at 11 o'clock this morning.

The questions go on from here but I have to wonder if the Attorney rolled his eyes at Mr. Stream's last answer.

The image shows a handwritten deposition transcript on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in cursive and matches the typed transcription provided in the document. It includes three questions and answers, with the questions preceded by 'Do by same' and the answers preceded by 'answers'. The handwriting is somewhat informal and shows signs of being a working draft or a transcription of a spoken deposition.

Do by same Jacob Stream being duly sworn testifieth as follows

question by George Wanner Are you an heir at ^{law} of Jacob Fawley Dec'd

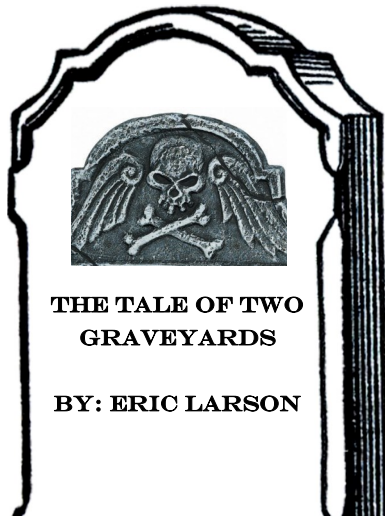
answers Yes

Do by same How come you an heir

answers I married his daughter

Do by same Is your wife still living

answers She was when I left home at 11 o'clock this morning



Sometimes a customer research request can open a door to a fascinating history about land and families. In July 2018, a Trustee for the Tippet Hill Cemetery visited the Historic Records Division looking for the first deed and plat information on the above cemetery that mentions a burial ground on this property. The current deed and plat were easy to locate, but the first deed that describes the cemetery was more elusive.

Tippet Hill Cemetery is a legally established and active burial ground located off Moran Road in Sterling in area known as "Horsepen Run." The burial ground is a little under an acre and includes a buffer to protect it from development. The cemetery dates back to late 19th century and has over 130 African American graves.

Chaining the Deed

I quickly discovered that chaining the most recent deeds was not going to work, since the current deeds were poorly researched and prepared. This left the difficult option of chaining the property from the early 19th century forward. Luckily, Tippet is not a common last name in Loudoun in the early 19th century and finding Loudoun court records listing Tippet was not difficult. I had to use a number of current and historic court records, oral histories, archaeology reports and online cemetery databases to chain the deed forward and learn about the Tippet family. By using the above records, I soon discovered another property and burial ground belonging to the Tippet family.

Tippet Family

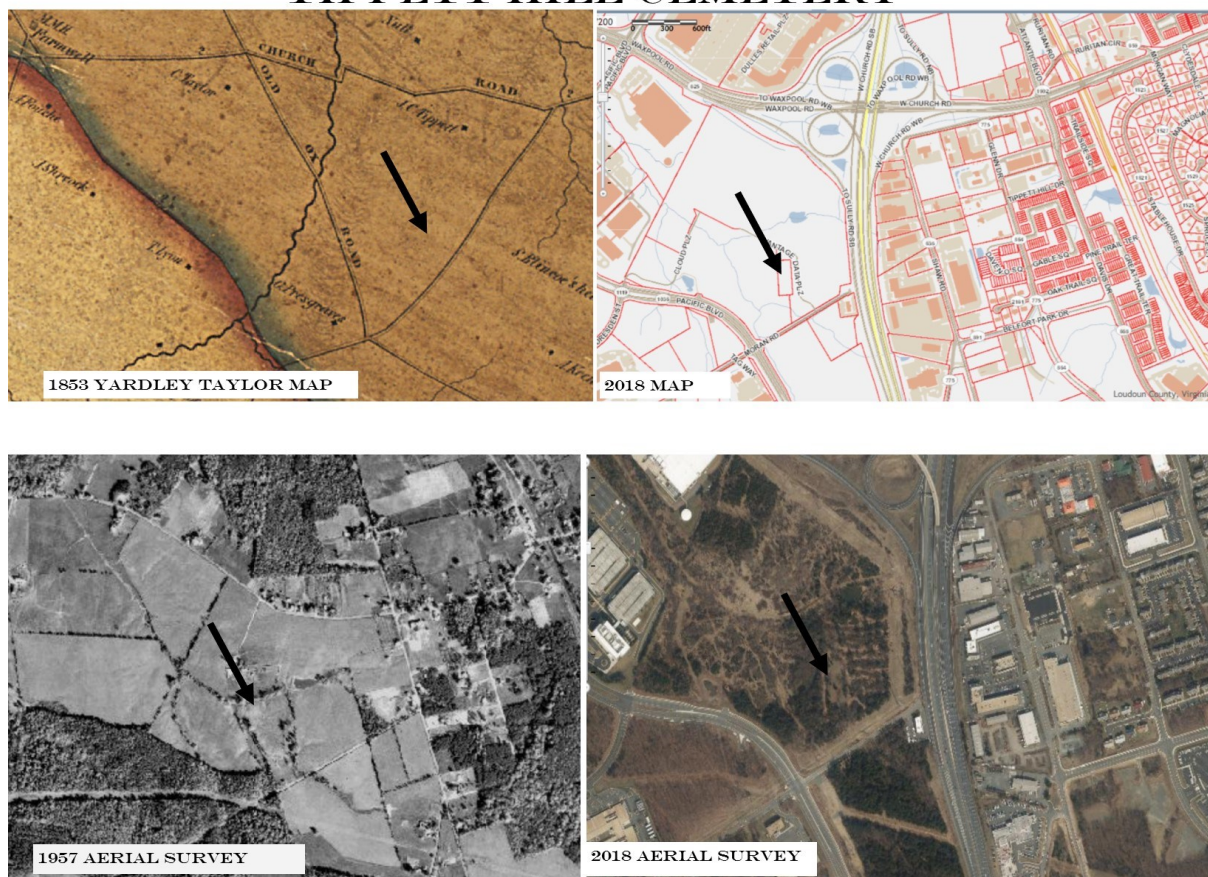
In 1818, Cartwright Tippet purchased a parcel of land "standing on "Horsepen Run" from Thomas Young, and moved his family and six slaves from Washington City (DC).¹ In the same year, Cartwright filed a Certificate of Importation of Slaves with the court for six slaves between the ages of 6 and 45 which he brought from Washington City.² Another deed in 1820 gave the Tippet family the rights from John Coleman for "the waters of Horsepen Run and at the mouth passing through the farm of said Tippet's land".³

Cartwright Tippet died sometime before 1827 leaving no will, 317 acres and 7 slaves. In January 1827, the Tippet family filed a chancery case to legally divide Cartwright's estate among his wife and six children. The court ordered commissioner's report and plat shows the land being divided into three lots of 33, 128, and 156 acres.⁴ His son John C. Tippet received lot 3 consisting of 156 acres and slaves Kitty and child Richard Henry.⁵ The dower Elizabeth Tippet received Lot 1 consisting of 33 acres, a house, and 4 slaves. Lot 2 consisting of 128 acres and one slave went to Mary Burr the daughter of Cartwright Tippet.

In 1844, Elizabeth Tippet died without a will. Her son John C. Tippet filed a chancery case to legally divide the remaining land and slaves of his mother. The estate was ordered to be sold and the money divided among John C. Tippet and three other family members. In the estate sale, John purchased his mother's 30 acres and house for \$700. The remaining property of his mother's estate, including 3 slaves, was sold at auction collecting \$2,325. John received \$1,163 and three other family members received \$387 apiece.⁶

In December 1821, John C. Tippet's married Leah A.W. Jones in Washington City. John and Leah had six children by time John's death in 1858.⁷ Leah's father was Henry Jones who owned land in Loudoun. Like his father and mother, John died in January 1858 without leaving a will for an estate that included 344 acres and 24 slaves.⁸ In 1859 John's son-in-law George W. Hummer and his wife Leah J., and Thomas Palmer, and his wife Elizabeth G. filed a chancery case to settle the estate and divide the property among the children and wife of John C. Tippet.⁹ The chancery case contained a plat that divided his 344 acres into seven lots for his six children and his wife.¹⁰ The largest lot of 140 acres and 26 slaves went to the dower Leah H. Tippet.

TIPPETT HILL CEMETERY



The Arrow shows the Tippet Hill Cemetery

Tippet Hill Cemetery Deed Found

No burial ground was listed in the 1858 chancery case, nor in any deed that divided the land of the late John C. Tippet. Today, we know from the following deeds that the future Tippet Hill Cemetery was located on the dower's 140 acres. In 1884 the dower Leah H. Tippet's land passed to her son-in-law L.F. Palmer and wife Elizabeth G. in a commissioner's deed.¹² In 1887 L.F. Palmer and his wife sold the land to Mary J. Ankers except; "reserves the Burying Ground which is upon the tract and the right of way to the same from the public road (Coleman Road)."¹³ This was the first description of a cemetery on the dower's land. It is interesting to note that a 1990 title report concluded that the ownership of this one acre cemetery never passed out of L.F. Palmer's family.¹⁴

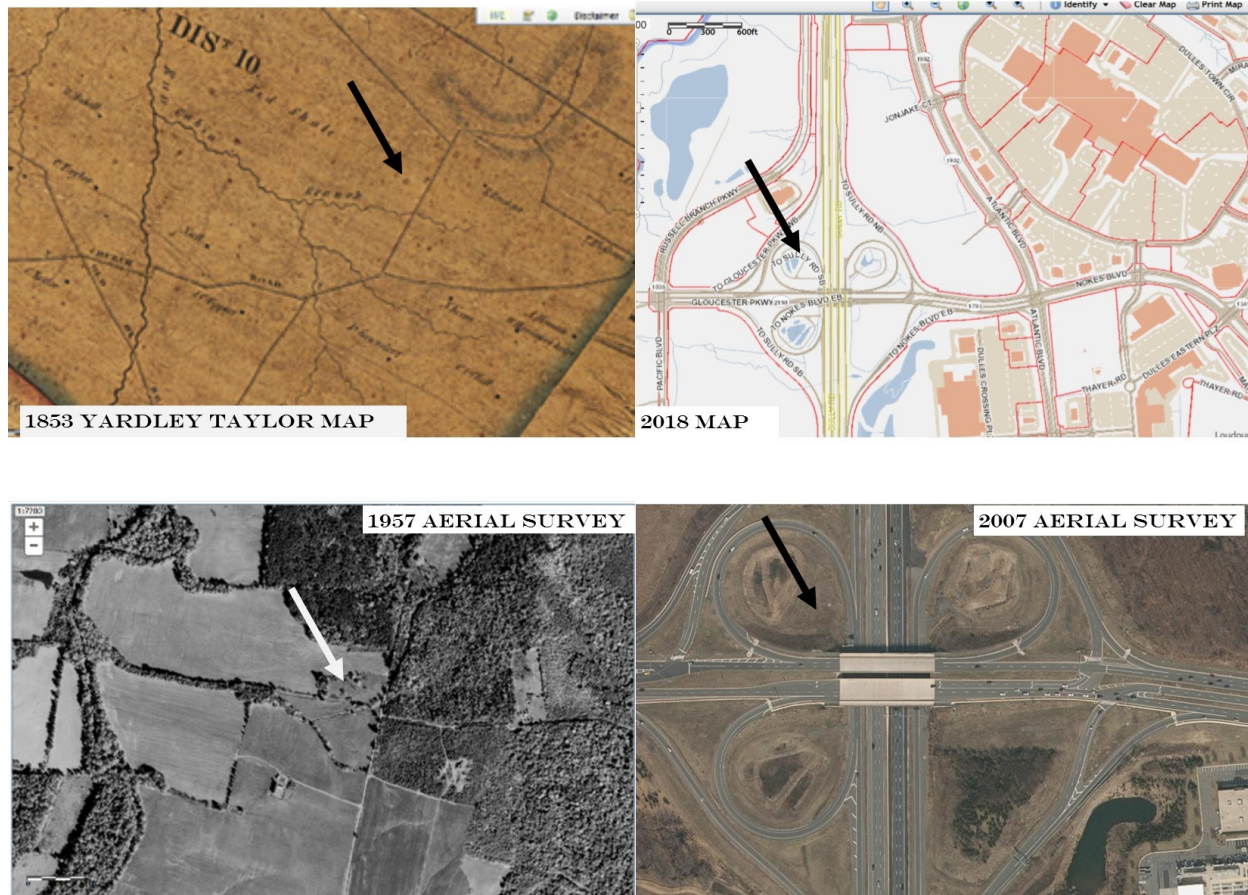
So who was buried on this property in the 1887 burial ground, and were they members of the Tippet family or slaves? The number of slaves that passed through the Tippet family during the years 1818-1865 could have been well over 50. John C. Tippet owned 26 slaves at the time of his death in 1858. It is likely there was a burial site set aside for Tippet's slaves on their property. However, the first burial documented in the 1887 cemetery dates to 1899, per headstones.

In 2018, there were over 130 African-American graves in the cemetery.¹⁵ The cemetery includes graves from Loudoun African American families like the Ellis, Ewings, Gaskins, Jackson, Johnsons and Nokes. The Nokes have 14 family members buried in Tippet Hill, and their descendants currently serve as trustees for the cemetery. In Carrie Elizabeth Nokes' 2002 oral history she talks about the origins of the cemetery and her family's connection to it:

*"Yes, black folks out there. It's a very active cemetery still. They are buried right out here at our cemetery, Tippetts Cemetery here in Sterling. And it was given to the black family by a white man cause we didn't have a burying ground."*¹⁶

Was the "white man" L.F. Palmer who set aside one acre in 1887 for a cemetery? Besides the 1887 deed, and current deeds, Carrie Nokes oral history was the only other record that mentions land being set aside for a cemetery on Tippet's "Horsepen Run" property.

KILGOUR & HUMMER/PALMER CEMETERIES



The Arrow roughly shows the Kilgour and Hummer cemeteries

Hummer/Palmer Cemetery

While researching the Tippetts properties, another property and burial ground was found in an 1854 deed. This property and cemetery was located on and around today's Nokes Boulevard and Route 28 cloverleaf interchange in Sterling. In the 19th century the land and burial ground was on the north side of Kilgour Mill Road. The 1854 deed from John C. Tippetts granted Hummer "a certain family burying ground upon the farm formerly owned by the late George Kilgour decd".... To be ¼ acre more or less and bound and enclosed by post rail fence..."¹⁷

When George Kilgour passed away sometime before 1819 he owned 162 acres of land. The 1819 deed which sold Kilgour's land to his son-in-law George Sheid stated "excepting there out the present family burying ground... for the use of the heirs of said George Kilgour deceased."¹⁸ In 1836 the former lands of George Kilgour and Sheid was sold to Henry Jones who was the father of Leah H. Tippetts, who was the wife of John C. Tippetts.¹⁹ In the 1850s, the former lands of Leah J. Tippetts's father Henry Jones was passed on to her and John C. Tippetts.²⁰ In an 1869 deed, Leah H. Tippetts gave her son-in-law G.W. Hummer a half acre "lot of land lying on the north side of the Kilgour Mill Road...one half acre including the old Kilgour Burying Ground."²¹

Researching the Thomas Balch Library Cemetery database found three known burials in the Hummer/Palmer Cemetery, G.W. Hummer, Leah J. Hummer and a Thomas E. Hummer. By the 1950s, the land of Kilgour and Hummer was owned by Albert Shaw. In 1962 Albert Shaw petitioned Loudoun's Circuit Court to declare the cemetery abandoned for which he was granted.²² In 2007 forty-seven sets of remains were removed from the Kilgour and Hummer/Palmer cemetery and reinterred in the Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon.²³ Besides the removal of graves belonging to the Kilgour family, you have to wonder how many of those remains, if any, were from the Tippetts family.

Fortunately, the Tippet Hill Cemetery is a legally established cemetery whose graves are well documented, and on the other hand the Kilgour and Hummer cemetery was abandoned and left little information on its burials. Today, the Tippet Hill Cemetery has development all around it, but is protected from future growth with a 25-ft. buffer around it and a road easement to access it. However, the former Kilgour and Hummer burial grounds are located under the Nokes Boulevard and Route 28 interchange. Both cemeteries are examples of the time, research and legal action that goes into establishing the legal rights for a burial ground, or proving that burial ground has been abandoned to free the land for development.

Endnotes

- 1 Loudoun County Deed Book 2X-170 Cartwright Tippet shows up in the 1790 census for St Mary's Maryland and the 1800 census of Washington City.
- 2 Loudoun County Deed Book 2X-141 Slaves imported from Washington DC., Davy 45, Romilus 38, Richard 21, Kitty 22, Robert 6, Heister 6
- 3 Loudoun County Deed Book 3B-78
- 4 Chancery Case 1828-38 and Deed Book 3R-174
- 5 Cartwright Tippet's slaves listed in Deed Book 3R-174: Dick, Kitty, Richard Henry (Child of Kitty), Stephen, James, Letty, Betsey
- 6 Loudoun Chancery Case 1845-025: Slaves ordered sold were Hester, Letty and Betsy
- 7 Washington DC, Compiled Marriages, 1801-1825
- 8 Slaves are Jack 63yrs, George 50yrs, Flora 50yrs, Lydia 44yrs, Sally 35yrs, Anthony 33yrs, Matliu 28yrs, Edward 22yrs, William 19yrs, Frank 17yrs, Mariah 17yrs, Fanny 14yrs, Charles 16yrs, Andrew 10yrs, Nancy 9yr, Margart 8yrs, Oliver 9yrs, Carline 5yr, Flesco 18months, Ben 3yrs, Eliza 8yr, Louiza 6yrs, Mary 4yrs, Jino 6yrs, Susan 4yrs, Frances 2yrs
- 9 The 1858 chancery case reveled that George W. Hummer's wife was John Tippet's daughter Leah. George and Leah were married on January 17, 1849 (1849 Loudoun County Marriage Bonds) The other party involved in the chancery case was Thomas Palmer, whose wife was John Tippet's daughter Elizabeth G. Thomas and Elizabeth were married on April 19, 1843 (1843 Loudoun County Marriage Bonds)
- 10 Loudoun Chancery Case 1858-13: Children were Leah, Daniel T., Elizabeth G., Samuel A., John H., William H, Thomas E.
- 11 Chancery case 1866-27 listed 23 slaves, but John C. Tippet's will listed 26 slaves. The case was dismissed in 1866.
- 12 Deed Book 6Z-281: Leah Tippet's daughter Leah Hummer wife of G.W. Hummer dies in 1866.
- 13 Deed Book 6Z-460
- 14 Civil Law Case 57001, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Loudoun County Virginia, 2010: Further documentation to support my findings came from a 2010 Civil Petition for the Appointment of Cemetery Trustees for the Tippet Hill Cemetery. Most civil church and cemetery trustee's petitions contain only the names of the Board of Trustees. However, this petition contained two title reports that chained the cemetery history back, and confirmed some of my research on the land, cemetery and genealogy of the Tippet's family.
- 15 M016 Folder 11 & 17, Tippet Hill Cemetery Records, The Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg Virginia
- 16 Interview with Carrie Elizabeth Nokes by Pauline Singletary, Mark 14, 2002, The Thomas Balch Library. Carrie Elizabeth Nokes was born in 1913 and passed away in 2008. She is buried in Tippet Hill Cemetery.
- 17 Loudoun County Deed Book 5I-370.
- 18 Loudoun County Deed Book 2Y-156: George Kilgour purchased the property in 1770 (Loudoun County Deed Book G-22) and ran a successful milling business until his death. Also see: The Archaeology of a Loudoun Ordinary, Thunderbird Archaeology, April 2012
- 19 Loudoun County Deed Book 4A-4
- 20 Loudoun County Chancery Case 2555, 1962.
- 21 Loudoun County Deed Book 57-443
- 22 Loudoun County Chancery Case 2555, 1962
- 23 The Connection Newspaper, Thursday, April 3, 2007



Police Blotter

By Sarah Markel



For this edition of the Police Blotter I was inspired by the chill in the air of October. Traditionally at our First Friday Event in October one of the most frequent questions I am asked is: "Are there any ghost in the court house?" With this question in mind I dug into the Archives to see what new stories I could find. The cases that follow are assaults and murders that may have led to some spirits with unfinished business, I will leave it to you to decide. If you want to hear stories about the "Murderess of Loudoun County" or the ghost of the court house you will have to come to the October First Friday Open House.

Case Number: 1826-029 **Name:** Henry, John **Charge:** Assault

Complaint: John Henry, a Bricklayer, was charged with assaulting and beating George French, a School Teacher. The order books and the file do not shed any light onto why this disagreement started.

Outcome: This case was Nolle Prosequi, which is Latin for "We shall no longer prosecute." The defendant was then released.

Case Number: 1826-050 **Name:** McCarty, Dennis **Charge:** Murder

Complaint: Dennis McCarty, Farmer, was charged with the Murder of James Beatty. On December 23, 1824, Dennis McCarty stabbed James Beatty with a knife, and Mr. Beatty died almost instantly of his wounds.

Outcome: It was decided that he was Guilty and should stand trial at the next Superior Court. Mr. McCarty's Lawyers argued that he would not get a fair trial in Loudoun County as people were prejudice against him and the case was moved to Prince William County.

Notes: This case contains 5 or more depositions with descriptions of a shooting match and gambling that was going on that night.

Case Number: 1914-003 **Name:** Hamilton, Marie **Charge:** Attempted Murder

Complaint: Marie Hamilton stands charged with preparing a custard for consumption and knowingly adding a poison to it known as "rough on rats." This custard was prepared with the knowledge that 6 people would be eating this custard and it would undoubtedly kill them if eaten.

Outcome: Marie Hamilton was found guilty of attempting to poison persons by adding rat poison to their food. She was sentenced to 3 years in the State Penitentiary. Her case was retried with the same outcome.

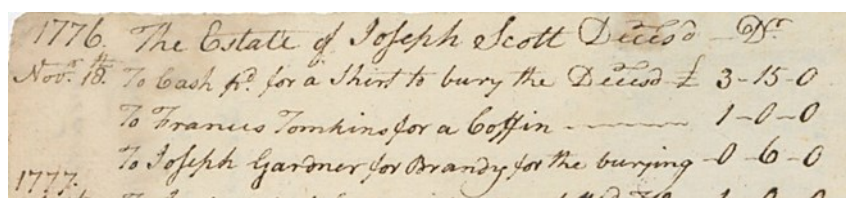
Note: Cecil Connor is listed as being the Commonwealth's Attorney on this case. Mr. Connor passed away while trying a case in the old court house in 1938. His spirit is credited with many of the happening in the old court house today (if you believe in such things).

Stay tuned for more cases in our next addition.

Coffins, Shrouds, and Booze: Burial Practices, Trends, and Tradesmen in Loudoun County Estate Accounts 1757-1900

By Alyssa Fisher

A coffin, "a shirt to bury the dead," and "brandy for the burying," appear in the estate account of Joseph Scott who died around 1776. Estate accounts often include expenses incurred by the administrator of the estate to be paid by estate funds. These expenditures sometimes included items used for the funeral, along with the names of coffin makers, grave diggers, gravestone cutters, and others who provided funerary supplies and services. Though not everyone in Loudoun had estates to be accounted for when they died, the sample available from 1757 to 1900 provide evidence of burial practices, trends and terminology, and the names of tradesmen who provided services to the deceased and their families.



Portion of Joseph Scott's Estate Account listing items for his funeral.
Will Bk C p. 59

Joseph Scott's estate account is representative of early burial practices found in estate accounts in Loudoun County. Several accounts specify a coffin, burial clothing, specifically a shirt or winding sheet, and alcohol. Coffins appear with most frequency as an expense in estate accounts. Very few specify the type of wood used to construct the coffin, though the estate of Josias P. Adams purchased a coffin from John Harris in 1797 made of black walnut, and John Wilkinson's estate paid for a "coffin of mahogany," in 1818. Winding sheets, or cloth used to wrap the body of the deceased, appear occasionally in the eighteenth century and continue into the nineteenth century along with coffin sheets, shrouds, and other burial clothes. A fairly common listing in estate accounts include alcohol either for the wake or the funeral. Eleanor Lyles' funeral around 1772 included a gallon of rum, while Joshua Daniel provided "whiskey for the burial," of William Griffith in 1783, and George Chilton's estate paid for "liquor at sitting up with the corpse," in 1773.²

Many early estate accounts did not include a gravestone in the list. This may be that those graves never received a stone, or funds for the purchase of a stone came from another unrecorded source. Others used simpler markers of wood such as Francis Hughes whose estate paid an unnamed person for "painting head and foot boards," in 1807. Most gravestones appear in estate accounts beginning in the 1820s and increase in number throughout the nineteenth century. While most early estate accounts do not specify the location of the grave, a few mention work done to family graveyards. The estate of Peter Boss paid George K. Fox, Richard Henderson, and Joseph Kid for planks and posts for the fence around the family graveyard. References such as these can provide evidence of family graveyards, and with further research could help establish the location of certain graves.³

Early estate accounts present a number of men who dug graves. Most men dug graves as a side job, and worked in a variety of graveyards and family plots, though a few did work for specific locations. Rodney Davis appeared in estate accounts between 1853 and 1883 digging graves and setting gravestones for the Goose Creek Burying Ground in Lincoln, VA. On October 13, 1853, the Committee of the Goose Creek Monthly Meeting announced an agreement with Rodney Davis "to take the proper care of the brick meeting house and out buildings," and "also to have charge of the grave yard, dig the graves seasonably and furnish such gravestones as the meeting shall approve." More caretakers of specific graveyards increased in the late nineteenth century, especially with the establishment of new cemeteries and cemetery companies. George Newton dug graves from 1884 to 1900 but originally worked as a shoemaker, only to become the cemetery superintendent for Union Cemetery sometime in the 1880s or 1890s. The estate of Thomas W. Edwards paid

1 Joseph Scott, 1776, Will Book C p. 59, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

2 Josias P. Adams, 1797, Will Book K p. 292, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; John Wilkinson, 1818, Will Book O p. 240, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; Eleanor Lyles, 1772, Will Book B, p. 6, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; William Griffith, 1783, Will Book C p. 82, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; George Chilton, 1773, Will Book B p. 44, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

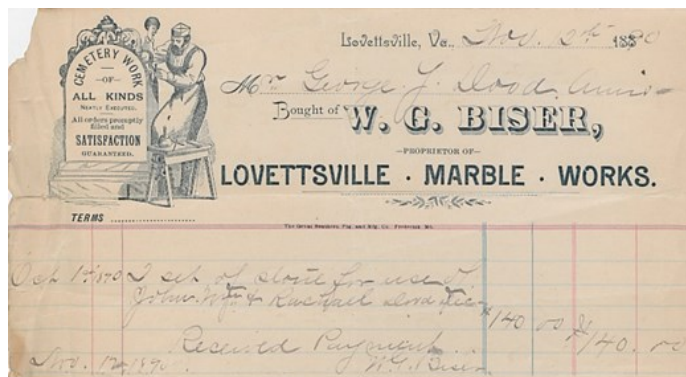
3 Francis Hughes, 1807, Will Book K p. 317, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; Peter Boss, 1818, Will Book N p. 286, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

Newton for a lot in Union Cemetery in 1892, and Newton appeared in the 1900 census as superintendent of a cemetery. Beginning about 1860, the term “sexton” occasionally appeared in estate accounts identifying a grave digger or cemetery caretaker. Blanco W. Bramhall served as sexton from 1863 through 1871, digging the graves for a number of people buried in the New Jerusalem Lutheran Church cemetery in Lovettsville.⁴

Estate accounts in the mid to late nineteenth century occasionally listed different gravestone shapes in addition to the commonly used monolith. Examples included obelisk shaped monuments, and grave slabs, or long flat stones that lay flat on top of the grave. A few estate accounts refer to the material used for the gravestone. R.J. Thompson provided a marble gravestone for John Gray in 1844. Estate accounts listed the names of gravestone providers but very few specified whether the person acted as an agent to procure the stone, or if they actually cut the stones themselves. Occasionally estate administrators gave more specific information as Thomas E. Bard received payment for the “gravestone and inscription,” of Mahlon Russell’s stone in 1831. More specialized tradesmen appeared in estate accounts in the later half of the nineteenth century. William G. Biser provided gravestones in estate accounts from 1887 to 1902, and advertised himself on a receipt found in a chancery suit as a “Proprietor of Lovettsville Marble Works, Cemetery work of all kinds, neatly executed, all orders promptly filled and satisfaction guaranteed.” P.P. Perry also appeared in estate accounts beginning around 1874 up through the early 1900s. A receipt identified him as a “manufacturer of monuments, headstones, coping, furniture, slabs, etc, in marble or granite.” This trend of specialized funeral trades and the commercialization of funeral work



Mahlon Russell’s
gravestone



W.G. Biser receipt
CH 1935-059

carried over into other funeral items found in later nineteenth century estate accounts.⁵

Coffin makers listed in early estate accounts worked primarily as cabinetmakers, carpenters, or chair makers. Cabinetmaker John M. Thompson appeared in estate accounts as a coffin maker from 1832 to 1869. In the 1860 Census, Thompson, his wife Orel, and three young apprentices including John Doyle lived in Middleburg. John M. Thompson died around 1865, and his wife Orel continued to sell coffins from Thompson’s stock. She appears in estate accounts from 1869 to 1872, and is the only woman recorded in these accounts to have sold coffins. An inventory of both John M. and

Orel Thompson’s property after Orel’s death around 1873, included materials for making coffins such as lumber, coffin tacks, coffin handles, coffin plates, seventeen large and eight small coffins already constructed, and an old hearse. All of these items suggest that though John M. Thompson primarily worked as a cabinetmaker, the coffin making industry may have been quite lucrative and became a major part of Thompson’s work. This assertion is further supported by the life of Thompson’s apprentice John Doyle.⁶

4 Minutes 1847-1895, Baltimore Yearly Meeting Minutes, RG2/B/G661 1.5, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed September 19, 2018); 1870 U.S. Census, Northern Division, Loudoun, Virginia, Population Schedule, Page 16, Dwelling 122, Family 127, George Newton, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed September 21, 2018); 1880 U.S. Census, Leesburg, Loudoun, Virginia, Population Schedule, Page 15, Dwelling 142, Family 142, George W. Newton, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed September 21, 2018); Thomas W. Edwards, 1892, Will Book 30 p. 118, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; 1900 U.S. Census, Leesburg, Loudoun, Virginia, Population Schedule, Page 103, Dwelling 119, Family 123, George Newton, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed September 21, 2018); Elizabeth Cooper, 1865, Will Book 25 p. 341, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; Mary Fry, 1871, Will Book 2W p. 410, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office.

5 John Gray, 1844, Will Book 2D p. 241, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; Mahlon Russell, 1831, Will Book W p. 186, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; W.G. Biser receipt, Dodd’s Exors et al v. Dodd et al, CH 1935-059, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; P.P. Perry receipt, Loy’s Admr. v. Loy et al, CH 1914-041, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office.

6 Fred D. Johnston Jr., Nineteenth Century Loudoun County, Virginia Chair Manufacturing (Vienna, VA: Day & Night Printing, Incorporated, 2003), 235-239; 1860 U.S. Census, Southern District, Loudoun, Virginia, Population Schedule, Dwelling 193, Family 193, John M. Thompson, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed September 21, 2018); John M. Thomas, 1865, Will, Will Book 2P, p. 453; John M. Thomas, 1873, Inventory, Will Book 2Y p. 361, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office; Orel Thompson, 1873, Inventory, Will Book 2Y p. 409, Loudoun County Clerk’s Office.

Doyle remained in the Thompson household most likely up to Orel Thompson's death, after which Doyle purchased most of the cabinet and coffin making materials according to sale bills of the Thompson estate. John Doyle's charges for coffins appeared in estate accounts from 1874 to 1894, and he appeared specifically as an "undertaker" only once in 1890. By 1900, Census takers listed Doyle's business as "undertaker and furniture," while his nephew listed within his household worked as a "cabinetmaker." The partnership Doyle & Roche appeared in estate accounts in 1901, and most likely continued beyond Doyle's death in 1906. Court Records suggest Doyle's nephew continued with the business, as a receipt for a casket and use of a hearse "bought of Doyle & Roche, Cabinet Makers and Undertakers," can be found in a chancery suit from 1918.⁷

The duality between working as a cabinetmaker and serving as an undertaker became a normal occurrence, especially towards the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. J.W. Goodhart worked as a cabinetmaker, constructed coffins, dug graves, and provided gravestones according to estate accounts from 1844 to 1889. His son, Elijah Goodhart, also worked as a cabinetmaker, but became primarily known as an undertaker, providing coffins, embalming, and conducting funeral services as early as 1898. He also listed himself as an undertaker on his marriage license in 1902, and in the 1900 and 1910 census. Other court documents show this trend as well, with a variety of receipts from chancery suits naming W.H. Howell of Round Hill as "Undertaker and Dealer in High-Grade Furniture," Lloyd Slack of Leesburg, "manufacturer of and dealer in medium and high-grade furniture, undertaker and licensed embalmer," and S.F. Gray of Middleburg, "cabinet maker and undertaker," who also happened to be the "successor to Doyle and Roche," by 1932. The increase in identified undertakers, especially at the end of the nineteenth century, further indicates a shift toward the commercialization of the funeral business.⁸

Early estate accounts reference simpler funeral items or the "necessities;" a container for the body, some kind of burial cloth, and provisions for the survivors. A shift in funeral trends occurred in the mid nineteenth century as estate accounts began to include additional items for mourning, fancier gravestones, more commercialized funeral materials and specialized services. A greater focus on the process of mourning and the funeral service took precedence. Mention of mourning crepe, a fabric usually in black used for draping or clothing, memorial cards, and a silver coffin plate, provide examples of this shift. While other probate materials such as wills and inventories can provide interesting information about the deceased person when they lived, estate accounts can provide information about burial practices, and the names of tradesmen who provided funeral services and goods in Loudoun County over time.⁹

1873 Sale of Personal property of Orel Thompson's Estate		
Paraphrase Property		
John Doyle	1 Pair Candles	2 00
John Doyle	1 n. Blackberry Wines	37
John Doyle	2 n. Bird Churns	2 00
John Doyle	1 n. Cordial	1 00
John Doyle	3 Stone Jars	75
John Doyle	Contents of Utensil room	2 00
John Doyle	3 pr Coffin Handles	2 25
John Doyle	6 " " "	6 00
John Doyle	6 " " "	1 50
John Doyle	6 " " "	6 00
John Doyle	3 " " "	2 50
John Doyle	6 " " "	4 00
John Doyle	6 " " "	4 00
John Doyle	6 " " "	8 00
John Doyle	3 " " "	3 60
John Doyle	4 " " "	2 40
John Doyle	2 pr Coffin Sacks pr	1 44
John Doyle	3 Coffin Plates	75
John Doyle	6 pr Coffin Sacks 90	5 40
John Doyle	1 " " "	1 20
John Doyle	2 " " "	1 30
John Doyle	1 n. S. P. Decors	2 30
John Doyle	1 " " "	1 25
John Doyle	1 Day for Hinges	1 50
		466 51

Sale Bill of Orel Thompson's Estate
Will Bk 2Y p. 414

7 1870 U.S. Census, Southern District, Loudoun, Virginia, Population Schedule, Page 225, Dwelling 1260, Family 1273, Orel Thompson, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed September 19, 2018); John M. Thomas, 1873, Sale Bill, Will Book 2Y p. 369 Loudoun County Clerk's Office; Orel Thompson, 1873, Sale Bill, Will Book 2Y p. 414, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; Louisa Herndon, 1890, Estate Account, Will Book 3K p. 330, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; 1900 U.S. Census, Mercer District, Town of Middleburg, Loudoun County, Virginia, Population Schedule, Dwelling 140, Family 140, John Doyle, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed September 21, 2018); John Doyle, 1906, Will, Will Book 3S, p. 167, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; Doyle & Roche receipts, Piggott's Admr. et al v. Piggott et al, CH 1918-041, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

8 Mary E. Bowers, 1898, Will Book 3O, p. 378, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; E.S.W. Goodhart to Margaret A. Smith, Loudoun County Marriages, Vol. 4, p. 58, line 11, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; 1900 U.S. Census, Lovettsville, Loudoun, Virginia, Population Schedule, Page 13 Dwelling 244, Family 263, Elijah Goodhart, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed September 25, 2018); 1910 U.S. Census, Lovettsville, Loudoun, Virginia, Population Schedule, Dwelling 20, Family 21, Elijah S.W. Goodhart, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed September 25, 2018); W.H. Howell receipt, Wynkoop v. Wynkoop admr et al, CH 1913-020, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; Lloyd Slack receipt, Loy's Admr. v. Loy et al, CH 1914-041, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; S.F. Gray receipt, Furr v. Turner's Exor. et al, CH 1934-045, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

9 Samuel Rogers, 1847, Will Book (A), p. 282, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; Abraham Houser, 1857, Will Book 2N, p. 471, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; L.F. Palmer, 1892, Will Book 3M, p. 421, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

Birth, Death & Marriage Certificates

One of our most frequently asked questions is: “How do I get a copy of a birth, death, or marriage record?” In an effort to answer this question, below are some agencies that can help and a description of what records they can access.

1. Clerk of the Circuit Court- Public Services

- A. The Clerk of the Circuit Court-Public Services issues Marriage Licenses for Loudoun County. You can see the requirements for Marriage Licenses at: <https://www.loudoun.gov/index.aspx?nid=1162>
- B. The Clerk of the Circuit Court-Public Services can issue copies of Marriage Licenses that were originally issued by the court from 1996-Present. (See URL link above)

2. Clerk of the Circuit Court– Historic Records

- A. The Historic Records Division has Marriage Licenses and Bonds from 1767-1995. Customers can use our online indexes to locate historic Marriage Licenses and Bonds:
<https://www.loudoun.gov/index.aspx?NID=2187>
- B. The Historic Records Division has historic Birth records from 1853-59, 1864-66, 1869-79, & 1912-17. Customers can use our online indexes to locate these Birth Records at:
<https://www.loudoun.gov/index.aspx?NID=2181>
- C. The Historic Records Division has historic Death Records from 1853-66 & 1912-17. Customers can use our online indexes to locate these Death Records at:
<https://www.loudoun.gov/index.aspx?NID=2181>

3. Loudoun County Health Department

- A. The Loudoun County Health Department has copies of Death Certificates filed in Loudoun County from the past 5 years.
- B. Copies can be obtained by calling their office at: 703-777-0234.
- C. For more details on how to obtain a Death Certificate please see the Loudoun County Health Department Website at: <https://www.loudoun.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/57842>

4. The Virginia Department of Vital Records

- A. The Virginia Department of Vital Records maintains a database of all Birth, Death, & Marriages Certificates issued anywhere in the Commonwealth.
- B. You can contact the Department of Vital Records at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/vital-records/> or at 804-662-6200

5. The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

- A. The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles is connected to the Virginia Department of Vital Records and is able to print copies of Birth, Death and Marriage Records issued anywhere in the Commonwealth.
- B. For more details on how to obtain a copy please see the DMV’s website at:
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/vital-records/>

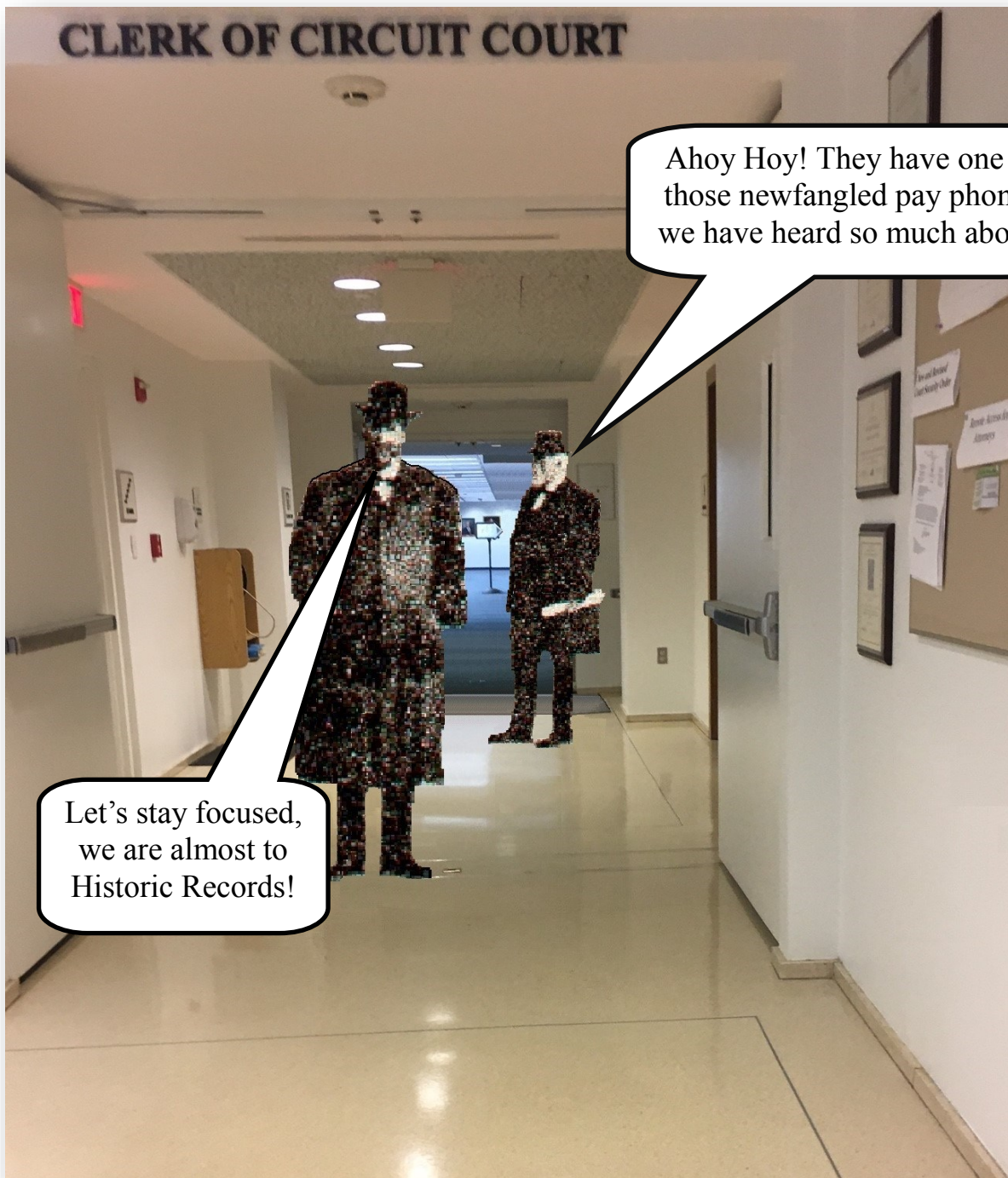
R	O	O	E	V	O	R	G	T	U	N	T	S	E	H	C
I	R	E	K	A	T	R	E	D	N	U	Z	X	Q	G	X
E	E	V	A	R	G	C	O	F	F	I	N	I	Y	R	S
H	M	I	B	T	N	E	M	U	N	O	M	T	R	A	T
T	O	T	G	U	R	Q	A	G	E	T	I	I	E	V	N
E	V	A	R	C	R	A	N	O	S	C	L	P	C	E	U
E	A	L	E	V	U	I	V	P	N	O	O	P	N	D	O
H	L	R	D	S	N	S	A	O	Q	A	O	E	A	I	C
S	P	E	R	R	O	L	T	L	W	I	H	T	H	G	C
G	Q	C	U	O	M	G	D	A	S	V	C	T	C	G	A
N	O	O	M	E	N	V	R	O	R	A	S	H	R	E	E
I	M	R	R	I	X	Z	N	A	W	D	R	I	E	R	T
D	Q	D	H	H	O	R	S	E	P	E	N	L	P	X	A
N	Z	S	I	N	T	E	N	T	O	Q	R	L	E	X	T
I	A	P	Y	R	A	I	T	N	E	T	I	N	E	P	S
W	D	O	O	F	E	N	O	T	S	E	V	A	R	G	E

Can you find these words in the puzzle above?

BURIAL
CHANCERY
CHESTNUT GROVE
COFFIN
CREPE
CUSTARD
DOWER
ESTATE ACCOUNTS
FOOD
GRAVE

GRAVE DIGGER
GRAVESTONE
HEIR
HORSEPEN
INTENT
MONUMENT
MOURNING
MURDER
PALMER
PENITENTIARY

POISON
REMOVAL
SCHOOL
TIPPETT HILL
UNDERTAKER
VITAL RECORDS
WASHINGTON CITY
WINDING SHEET



2018-2019 PROGRAMS AND NEWSLETTERS

First Friday October 5, 2018– Cemeteries and Burial Practices in Loudoun County

Historic Records partners with Thomas Balch Library and Jeff Ball to display the history of Loudoun's public, private and family cemeteries.

Armistice Day One Hundred Years Later: Remembering Loudoun in World War I November 11, 2018, 11AM

100 years ago on the eleven month of the eleventh day at the eleventh hour the First World War came to an end. Marking this 100th anniversary and to honor our country's veterans, the World War I Committee will have a display of objects and papers on display about Loudoun's WWI veterans.

We were residents of Loudoun County: The voice of slaves from Loudoun County's Chancery Records, February 2019 TBD

In 2018, Historic Records started indexing slaves found in the 1757-1865 chancery cases. This exhibition will feature some of the unique records about slavery in Loudoun County found during this project.

All Open Houses will be held at: Court Complex 18 E. Market St. Leesburg Virginia



Have you had a chance to take the courtyard walking tour?

If not, you can pick up a courtyard map at the Clerk of the Circuit Court Historic Records, Thomas Balch Library, or the Loudoun Tourism Office.

You can also find the map online [here](#).